

DX LISTENING DIGEST 00-71, May 28, 2000
edited by Glenn Hauser

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** ALASKA/KUDUAKOF ISLANDS. Operators Rick/KL7AK, Blaine/KL7TG, Larry/KF6XC and Tom/W0GLG will activate the Kudiakof Islands, part of the Northern Alaska Peninsula West group; an unnumbered IOTA island group. They have already sent maps to the IOTA Committee and they have verified that these islands will count as a new IOTA island. The team is projecting that they will be on the island late in the evening on the 4th of August, UTC, until early in the morning on the 9th of August, UTC. They will use the callsign KL7AK. Their main station will be a Kenwood TS-570S HF transceiver with an Ameritron AL-80A amp, using a Hy-Gain TH2Mk3 10-15-20 Yagi on a 30 foot mast. The backup antenna will be two G5RV antennas mounted as Inverted-V's atop the 40 foot mast facing east/west and north/south. Their backup radio will be a Kenwood TS-50S. Rick/KL7AK reports that he has found during his Alaska Island Dxpeditions, that 20 meters is the optimum band there in Alaska. They normally have propagation up to 20 hours a day. When stateside fades out, Europe comes in. When Europe fades out, the South Pacific comes in, etc. Since they will have only 1 station, their plans are to operate mainly on or near the IOTA frequency of 14.260 MHz. They will make CW contacts on request. QSL Manager is Fred Stenger, N6AWD, good in the callbook/Internet databases. (KB8NW/OPDX May 29.BARF-80 via John Norfolk, OKCOK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** ALBANIA. Radio Tirana programme schedule:

English to Europe:

1830 UTC on 7180 and 9510 kHz.

2130 UTC on 7130 and 9540 kHz. (+1215 kHz. MW)

English to North America:

0145 UTC on 6115 and 7160 kHz.

0230 UTC on 6115 and 7160 kHz.

(RamÚn V·zquez Dourado, Ferrol, Spain, May 28, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** ANDAMAN ISLANDS. New QSL: AIR Port Blair. Mr. A. K. Bhatnagar confirms two !!! reports of 01.10.99 and 13.11.99 with two different QSLs, reports sent to this address: 1) Dilanipur Port Blair 744 102, South Andaman. 2) 24 Coubert Avenue 744 102 Gorimedu (Daniele Canonica, Switzerland, May 28, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** AUSTRALIA. Do you ever listen to the RA ``Science Show`` which I regularly listen to on 9580 at 1305 UT Saturdays? Are there any other

airings hearable in North America? [Sunday 0910, Tuesday 0110]. It is usually quite a good science-discussion program, just about as good as RCI/CBC's ``Quirks & Quarks'', and better than most of the currently-simplified BBC science programming. The only defect I find is that it spends a bit too much time on issues related to but peripheral to science itself, like government funding in Australia of research, etc. It could be considered a non-call-in version of NPR's 'Science Friday' for Oz, and so the topic selection is equivalent, and understandable. On May 20 they went into some hard-science report on the discovery of evidence of a past large-scale release of carbon compounds from the sea, and the effect this had on the ecosystem. But I came in late after a boring segment, and missed the details (Will Martin, MO, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** CHINA [non] / ROMANIA. CRI English to NAm via Cuba 9570 at 0100 still perkin' along. Slight co-channel hindrance and heterodyne. CRI hurts Romania's attempt at English at 0200; Its 11940 is hit and miss if it shows up, with 11945 DW splash. CRI English at 0300 on 9690 [via SPAIN] much better in reception quality than 0100 on 5970 via Cuba. Have you heard CRI's new format? Has anyone commented on it? CRI still doesn't announce their sked at s/off (Bob Thomas, CT, May 21, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** COSTA RICA. RFPI has been testing on 21814 USB tho we have not heard it. Until SSB is back in use, others will operate: 6970 0000-0800 (weekends -1200); 15049 1300-0600 (Glenn Hauser, May 28, DXLD)

** CZECH REPUBLIC. Radio Prague will create a new Russian service with seven members. The Russian transmissions will start next October. (News heard on Spanish programme). (Ramón Vázquez Dourado, Spain, May 28, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** GREECE [non]. VOG, 15455 via Delano, finally noted running past 1700 May 27, until nominally scheduled 1759:30* (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** GUATEMALA. Hello everywhere, Dr. ...dgar Amilcar Madrid Morales, the director of Radio Verdad, Guatemala, sent a very nice personal letter after 3 weeks. He says that my report was the first one from Germany. In the meantime he already received several reports from abroad, naturally most of them from the US and Latin America, but also reports from Sweden and Italy.

The station is operating with 820 watts only. In the moment they cannot increase power, because the government does not agree. He also points out that there are problems with the local power supply. In the evening hours the voltage is decreasing considerably under 200 volts, which the transmitter is accepting as minimum. On that reason

Radio Verdad is closing down at around 18.25 local time.

First of all the station has religious and educational character without any commercial background (''...car·cter educativa y evangÉlica, no lucrativa, tratando de ayudar al desarrollo de nuestras comunidades'').

Due to problems with the government the station hasn't got yet a call sign. However the director expects the possible call sign TGAV in the future. TG means Transmisiones Guatemaltecas, A is the identification of the eastern region of Guatemala and V should be the special ID of Radio Verdad.

The letter contains a nice QSL-card too, which shows the station manager standing on the antenna tower, inclusive a contribution receipt about one US dollar, which I enclosed to my report. It's really the first time that I get such a receipt from a radio station.

I tuned in to Radio Verdad on 4052.5 on April 15 at around 00.15 UTC during the recent DX-Camp Bavaria using a 300m beverage antenna. Let me finally say that I was very happy about that nice QSL-letter, which gives a certain insight into the special problems of a new and young radio station, into its struggle with local authorities and insufficient power supply.

Address:

EstaciÛn Educativa EvangÉlica "Radio Verdad"
Apartado No. 5
Chiquimula
Guatemala

vy 73 (Michael Schnitzer, Germany, May 26, hard-core-dx via DXLD)

I am wondering if there is anything in the printed material making clear what they are saying in the standard ID, which sounds like ''desde Monte Orion, Ministerio (or Sierra?) de la Gloria...'' ?? (gh to Michael Schnitzer)

Yes, I think I can help in this case. The correct ID is as follows: ''Desde el Monte Horeb y el Cerro de La Gloria''. These are two little hills, on which the antenna towers are located. In the attachment you will find the QSL card with this ID (Michael Schnitzer, Hassfurt, Germany, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

Many thanks, Michael, for a look at the QSL card, the form letter and the personal letter, from which I translate and summarize this additional information:

Form letter dated May 8: letterhead adds 20901 as the postal code; work phone 502 9-425-689. R. Verdad first went on the air Feb. 25, and was inaugurated March 5. Transmits from Monte Horeb and the Cerro de la Gloria en San Esteban, Chiquimula. Non-profit station needs more than 40 patrons or 800 members. It is broadcasting directly from the transmitter site, since they do not have the money for a studio-transmitter link, 40 kiloquetzales installed. Some other problems to resolve: voltage is too low causing the signal to be noisy at times. Operates in the daytime at 200 volts, the lowest the transmitter can handle, but at night it falls below this and must turn it off. A transformer to correct this has been bought for Q6090 but installation will cost another Q10K. Also urgently needs a signal compressor; unknown how much the transmitter is being underfed causing some noise. Also being built are internal roads and ``tapialesí [not in my dictionary] in the area. The signal will be much better once all this is accomplished. Presently one must go around tower number 2 on Cerro de la Gloria to avoid accidents. A stairway needs to be built there, and tower lights installed. Later we want the government to give us back the power which was lowered, and an FM frequency. Please help us pray for this. Our program is varied, very spiritual, genuinely evangelical and a service to the community, already making a great impact on the listeners, who are many.

The personal letter to Michael Schnitzer, dated May 10, adds some more details. Power is only 820 watts. The transmitter is a 1 kW OmnitrÙnix, made in Italy, still in need of some adjustments. First went on the air Feb. 25 at 5 pm. Antenna is bipolar [dipole], 75m long, 12m high, so as not to miss covering the closest city, Chiquimula. Not all programs have been put on the air yet, and only one third of the music which has been prepared. Have been working intensively for almost a year to prepare the programming. Schedule is 5 am to 6:25 pm, when turned off due to low voltage. Transmitter accepts as little as 200 volts, but it falls below that at night. With the transformer, will stay at 240V and can stay on until 10:30 pm. Frequency acknowledged to vary 4047.5 to 4057.5 [I never have it more than a few Hz from 4052.5 -gh]. No callsign yet as the government has suspended the regulations, but expected to be TGAV, as above. Sr. Madrid is a 1965 graduate of George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon, Th.D. (Doctor en Filosofía Teológica) and has other academic degrees from the State University of Guatemala. Home phone on this letterhead is 9-420-362 (...dgar Amílcar Madrid Morales, Radio Verdad, via Michael Schnitzer, Germany, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** KUWAIT. Could you check if R. Pinoy is still on Kuwait? Last I saw some weeks ago somebody reported other programming at that time. Was its exact schedule ever established? 7 days a week? (gh to Dave

Kernick)

Hi Glenn, I heard Radio Pinoy at the usual time and on the usual frequency today - 1000 27th May on 17885 kHz - and it does seem to be daily. Other Radio Kuwait frequencies (13620, 15495, 15505 kHz) carry the Main [Arabic] Programme at this time. Regards, (Dave Kernick, UK, <http://www.intervalsignals.com> in DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** MALTA [non]. Malta schedule on QSL received 5/24/2000
Weekdays: 7150 SW - 0500 Italian, 0530 Arabic, 0600-0630 English.
12060 SW - 1900 English, 2000-2100 Arabic, (Fridays) 1900-2100 Arabic
Sundays: 17570 SW 0500-0600 Japanese. 11770 SW 0700 Italian, 0800
English, 0900 Maltese, 1000 French, 1100 German. 12060 SW 1900
English, 2000 French, 2030-2100 German (All Times in UTC)
Extracting English: 0600-0630 7150 Monday-Friday 0800-0900 11770
Sunday 1900-2000 12060 Monday-Thursday, Sunday (Larry Russell, MI,
May 28, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** NETHERLANDS ANTILLES. The good news is that Radio Netherlands has acquired four powerful generators which are being shipped out from France. The remains of the old generator room are being demolished, and a new one is to be built in its place. When installed, we will have double the generating capacity we had before the fire. Obviously all this is going to take quite some time, but our staff in Bonaire are working hard to minimise the disruption in the meantime. (Andy Sennitt, Media Network Newsletter May 26 via John Norfolk, DXLD)

** PERU. 5608v, May 27, Radio Tigre, location? 0030-0105+, S10 232, in program called ``Sabor Tropical`` mentioned transmitter problems, time checks, ``Radio Tigre presenta SABOR TROPICAL... Radio Tigre, los mejores Éxitos del Perú profundo, nuestra m'sica folclórica... Tigre, su radio``. (Yimber Gaviria, Colombia, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

This coordinates with the item from HCJB DXPL quoted earlier; we then heard from its originator, Björn Malm, who apparently confirms the details. His original report we found below, giving apparent location as Cochabamba, Cajamarca (gh)

** PERU. 5580-5620v Radio Tigre, okant QTH (Peru). Maj 2000 - 0000 UTC. Denna station hade jag som OID i SWB-1430. Det stora frågetecknet är stationens QTH. Djärfar sager aldrig i klartext varifrån man sänder trots att jag nu har lyssnat många timmar. Min arbetshypotes är följande: Radio Tigre ``LV del Campesino``, Cochabamba, Departamento Cajamarca, Peru. Man IDar hela tiden ``Radio Tigre`` men då och då använder ``La Voz del Campesino``, som mest låter som en jingel. Endast kortvägsfrekvensen 5250kc annonseras. Close down-tiden varierar mycket men oftast avslutas sändningen mellan 01-0300 UTC. Några ID varianter: ``Esta es Tigre la radio`` -

``Radio 2000 es Radio Tigre, la voz del nuevo milenio''. Bra styrka men ljudkvaliten varierar mycket dÃ¤ bÃ¶rvÃ¶gen ibland verkar ``fÃ¶rsvinna'' med resultat att det lÃ¶ter vÃ¶ldigt illa. Fantastisk, hÃ¶rlig musik, som verkar komma frÃ¶n Sydamerikas sista, oupptÃ¶ckta indianstam! Musiken verkar nÃ¶stan enbart komma frÃ¶n Cochapampa/Cajamarca - Ãtminstone Ãterkommer dessa tvÃ¶ ortsnamn stÃ¶ndigt i texterna. (BjÃ¶rn Malm, Quito, SW Bulletin May 7 via hardcore-dx via DXLD)

** RUSSIA, 15410, Radio Mayak (presumed), Special broadcast from 1500-1559 heard with fair signal to Northeast Ohio. Mostly Male and occasional female announcer along with several songs played. (Lee Silvi, Mentor, May 26, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** RUSSIA. DX Information from the British DX Club (BDXC-UK). Excellent reception of Radio Mayak on 15410 at 1500 sign-on, 27 May, with its test via a 200 kW transmitter at Novosobirsk. (Tony Rogers, UK, BDXC via DXLD)

** RUSSIA. Mayak test audible here poorly May 28 at 1555 on 15410 (Joe Hanlon, Philadelphia, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** RUSSIA. Joe's reminder caused me to check too May 28 at 1556 on 15410, and was fairly good here in Russian, so I got the very last on tape (Glenn Hauser, OK, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** RUSSIA. When I checked the Mayak test today it was indeed entirely in Russian, I noted not even any mention of it, just programming as usual. Here in Germany the signal was very good, only the rather distinctive fading keeps me from calling it local-like. By the way, I think the item, they are ``now on FM'', refers to 103.4 at Moscow, their first frequency in the CCIR FM band. Already in ``old times'' Mayak established a large network of FM transmitters in the OIRT band (66...73 MHz) and was broadcasting in stereo, contrary to the gone Radio Odin, also contrary to Radio Rossi, which still considers stereo as unnecessary luxury. Regards, (Kai Ludwig, Germany, May 28, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** RUSSIA. DX Information from the British DX Club (BDXC-UK). Tnx Mike & Tony for tips. Heard Mayak px today 1500-1600 UT on 15410 kHz with a very loud clear signal. Although I haven't really got a clue about ANY foreign languages, it still seemed a lot different to the Mayak pxs one would stumble across in 1989 when I started SWLing. Very strange to hear the eerie ``Midnight In Moscow'' Mayak interval signal, followed by lively announcers, mx that wouldn't be out of place on the Global Sound Kitchen and even a song with EE lyrics called ``In California''(!) and a track by the Mamas & The Papas. Now then, no copying Mr Bellabarba hi hi! (Tom Read, BDXC-UK, May 28, via

DXLD)

** SOUTH AMERICA. Dear Glenn: In our last transmission of May 20 we have noted some flaws in our transmitter. In these moments the same one is in technical service to adjust the same one. We think that we will be again in the air in one month and half approximately. We will take advantage of this time to put in order our correspondence, since there are receipts packages of correspondence of our maildrops. 73 and FFFR!!! (Ra'l Gonz.lez, Radio Blandenque, May 28, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

** U K [and non]. Another transmitter problem: just why is there a constant whistle on the BBC relay on 15220? It is often the best and strongest signal, but that accompanying noise makes it fatiguing to listen to.

I wonder if the ``Outlook`` staff knows or is told when an airing of their program is not broadcast to some stream or region. If they are, I would think they would have a duty to include in the next day's program a statement of apology, like ``We apologize to our listeners in the Americas who did not hear yesterday's 1305 GMT airing. This was due to a technical fault in the switching centre.'' (or whatever...) I suspect that the program-producers never know when a chunk of their expected audience is stolen from them by screw-ups on the part of the transmission side of the house. This happened at least two days in a row, May 9-10: No ``Outlook`` and ``Off the Shelf`` (episodes I was trying to follow) at 1305, but another Newshour, different from the one which had just been on at 1200! I wonder just how many ``Newshour`` programmes are produced each day?

I am beginning to firmly believe that the BBC just does not have the staff, or the skills, to pull off this elaborate multiple-stream schedule. It might be that there are too few people, or not-competent-enough people, to do what their planners devised. There is just too much to go wrong for them to get it right consistently without this kind of glitch or breakdown. Maybe if they threw enough money at it, with multiple layers of checks and cross-checks, pre-viewing and verification, it might be possible, but they just don't have that much money any more, or the people they need are too expensive for the money they do have. I'm glad to get the corroboration and sense of vindication I felt when I heard others express similar views on VOA Communications World (Will Martin, MO, DX LISTENING DIGEST)

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